

Look Out.

A friend writing on business from Marion Court House, South Carolina, says the following, among other things:

"Just here let me say that the Journal brings the latest news by eight or ten hours that we receive, but strange (?) indeed is it, that when any news of importance that has not been published in other papers, is published in the Journal, that copy is sure not to make its appearance for a day or two after it is due. We trust that you will look after our interest, and hereafter when such is the case, mail an extra copy for some one who don't subscribe."

We trust that it will not be necessary for us to call attention to this matter again, but that our papers will be promptly delivered to those who do subscribe, and not to those who do not subscribe.

The accounts from the Somerset disaster still continue to be conflicting, although all acknowledge that it was a disaster, but not quite as bad as the Federal accounts had made it out to be.

But the conflict of the different stories applies mainly to those told in reference to the conduct of Major General Crittenden, the first hints being understood as pointing to his unfortunate habits, while as time rolls on there are not wanting those who charge deliberate treachery, and even name \$47,000 as the amount of the alleged bribe.

Naturally enough there is, and has been, great excitement in Nashville, and indeed all through Tennessee, occasioned by the reverse to the Confederates, and also by the loss of a public man so high in the confidence of the people of the State as General Crittenden. Besides, when an affair of this character occurs, the public indignation will seek some victim upon whose head it can pour forth its shafts. We have seen how fatal defeat has been to the Northern Generals. We can hardly expect that it will not be very trying even to Confederate Generals. General Crittenden is the scape-goat now, and although there is too much reason to fear that there must have been criminal bungling, if not infidelity in the conduct of that officer on the occasion of the Mill Spring fight, still we cannot but think that in the excited state of public feeling in Tennessee, serious injustice is done to Gen. Crittenden, and charges made and credited derogatory to his loyalty, which upon investigation will turn out to have been groundless.

The Nashville correspondent of the Memphis Appeal, writing under date of the 25th, gives some of the reports current at that time in Nashville. One of these was told on the street by a Mr. W. B. Smith, of Nashville, a member of Capt. Duncan's Co. attached to McNair's battalion, and is to the effect that the Saturday preceding the battle, General Crittenden had died with a certain Captain West, a "Union man," and had arranged with him to have certain papers sent over the river to the Federals by one of West's negroes. That this fact was discovered, the negro shot while crossing the (Cumberland) river, and the papers found upon him taken for examination. This could not be had until after the battle. The papers discovered are said to reveal the character of our fortifications at Mill Springs, the number of our troops, and the amount of provisions on hand.

On the other hand there is a warm party defending the General and claiming for him the praise due to a brave and skillful officer. It is reasonable to presume that there will be a rigid investigation.

WE FIND in some of our exchanges extracts from Northern papers. These extracts purport to give the foreign news by the Europa which arrived at Halifax on the 26th. We rather think this news is colored up for effect. If the language of the English papers is as represented, it is certainly neither courteous in itself nor flattering to our Commissioners.

The London Post says that a thorough understanding has been arrived at with the U. S. Government. Notwithstanding this, warlike preparations still go on. The stone fleet blockade continues to be denounced by the press of both London and Paris.

The probable cost to England of the preparations occasioned by the Trent difficulty, will be nearly twenty millions of dollars.

The discourteous and disrespectful language to which we allude above is as follows:

MASON AND SIDELL, DESCRIBED AS "WORTHLESS BOOTS"—NO ENGLISH OYSTER FOR THE "FELLOWS."
The London Times has a strong editorial on the reception due to Mason and Sidell; it says they are about the most worthless boots it would be possible to extract from the jaws of the American lion; having been long known as hind and halibut livers and revilers of England. The Times sincerely hopes that England will not give these fellows anything in the shape of an ovation. The civility due to a foe in distress is all they can claim. England has returned them good for evil, and even now, if they can, they will be only glad to change her in a war with the North. England would have done just as much to rescue two negroes from evil, and even now, if they can, they will be only glad to change her in a war with the North. The other journals advise a similar course, and allude to Mason's strong advocacy of the fugitive slave law to prejudice the public against him.

We rather think there must be some mistake about this, and that, coming through Northern channels it has been interpolated, for it does not read like the Times, nor does its tone comport with that of all its previous references to Messrs. Mason and Sidell. We have no doubt it will be found out that the whole thing is misrepresented for effect.

Our ships the Nashville and Sumter are in European waters, and some federal steamers are watching them.

GENERAL BURNIDE'S force in Kentucky is estimated by a Louisville correspondent of the New York Tribune to consist of one hundred thousand infantry, eleven thousand cavalry and three thousand artillery with over one hundred guns. This is a large force.

The Charleston Courier states that Captain W. H. Forbes formerly commander of the barque Marthia of that port, had returned from Baltimore, where he left on the 22d. Captain Forbes says that he was at Hatteras on Sunday the 26th ultimo, and that there were three steam gunboats inside of the bulk-head, and from twenty-five to thirty vessels outside. At his last observation they were endeavoring to bring in a steamer, supposed to be the Patience. This account differs very much from that given by others.

WE DO NOT believe that there are a sufficient number of old hulkers nor a sufficient quantity of granite at the North to fill up permanently the entrance to the harbor of Charleston, but even should the Lincoln government fail to effect their vindictive purpose against that people, their failure, instead of exciting them, will only add the contempt due to impotence to the hatred which their malignity has already earned for them from all christian nations.

THE IDEA of the New York Times, that the gunboats of the Burnside fleet could get up the Neuse river to a point within six miles of Raleigh itself, is certainly among the oddest conceptions of the great military genius who presides over the columns of that paper.

SECRETARY SEWARD ought to be a bank officer, since he draws his drafts upon the future in dates so nearly corresponding with those ruling with paper in bank. He is always promising the world plenty of Cotton in thirty, or sixty, or ninety days, as the case may be. He has been doing that for some months, and he keeps renewing.

General McClellan has also gone into the business. He, too, has drawn a ninety days draft on the future. He says he will have the "rebellion" crushed in ninety days. It is foolish to promise too much.

IT WOULD SEEM that General Beauregard is indeed going to the Western seat of War, and, of course, leaving that on the Potomac. This may be regarded as a certain indication that the valley of the Mississippi is looked upon as the point of m's pressing danger and the theatre of the most decisive movements during the next few months.

The army of the Potomac will deeply regret parting with its idolized leader; for after all, although second in command to both the Johnstons, and probably not superior to either of them in ability or patriotism, circumstances have given to General Beauregard a prestige both at home and abroad, which does not attach to any other military man on the American continent.

We do not believe that he wishes to claim anything for himself to the disparagement of his gallant compeers, and we have reason to believe that such a thing as jealousy between him and General Johnston is a thing not even dreamed of.

Wherever General Beauregard may go, he will carry with him the respect and admiration of the people of the Confederate States, and the fullest confidence of the army.

We understand that part of General Beauregard's baggage has already passed through this place, which would seem to confirm the report above referred to, of the truth of which we presume there is no doubt.

OUR old friend General Winfield Scott, appears to have retired deep into the shades of private life, and is never heard of any more than that he has subsided, or been subjected to a fire in the rear, of the most irresistible kind. What a pity the old man did not die years ago!

THE rejoicings of the Northern papers over the terrible fire at Charleston seem to have created an impression abroad which can hardly be regarded as favorable to the Northern people or government. The London Chronicle distinctly charges the fire upon incendiaries in the pay of the Lincoln government, whose system of warfare is denounced as that of the assassin and incendiary upon land, while its attempts by sea to choke the harbors of commercial ports are denounced as barbarous and uncivilized. Whether deservedly or not, certainly the Washington government gets the credit of the Charleston fire, and of all the attempts at incendiarism that have been in the Southern States since the war commenced.

Headed out at Last.

WE suppose it will relieve some suspense, even if it does not give unmingled satisfaction, for our people to know certainly that the Burnside expedition, or what is left of it, is inside of the Bar at Hatteras, as General Burnside says himself. His official report acknowledges a loss of vessels, such as they were, without a parallel since the destruction of the Spanish Armada. A few more such expeditions must disgust all the people of the North, with the single exception of those engaged in selling old hulkers to the Federal Government.

If instead of spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on the Merrimack, which has not yet done anything and probably never will, our government had turned its force at Norfolk to the building of gunboats for our sounds, there might have been two dozen of them ready to issue from Newbern, Washington and Roanoke Island, and have captured nearly all of the crippled hulks that sought shelter in Pamlico. What a pity it is that we are without a navy.

"GARBLED."—This word appears to be a favorite with some of our contemporaries, who seem to take refuge in its use from any embarrassment in which their language might involve them. If any piece or part of a piece is quoted and misadverted upon, the prompt and every ready reply seems to be that such quotation is "garbled." Now, if we know ourselves we never "garble," the assertion of the Fayetteville Observer and the Raleigh Standard to the contrary, notwithstanding.

We have, in making quotations from these papers, taken their language as we found it, and printed it in its direct sequence as it stood in print before us. The extract alluded to by the Standard in its last issue we cut out of some other paper, the Salisbury Watchman, we think. We have no doubt it was perfectly correct and wholly ungarbled. To the assertion that the people had clothed the Convention with supreme legislative, executive and judicial power, the Standard adds "that this power must be exercised for the people, and subject to their will." We give the Standard all the benefit of this avowal or qualification, which, by the way is an avowal that at all times, Why, the Emperor of Austria, or the King of Naples, would talk about the good of his people. It is the assertion of the power that appears to us dangerous. Of course no one would proclaim an intention to abuse such power, but would, on the contrary, disclaim such intention.

The Convention is composed of men, subject to the usual temptations and weaknesses of men, and one of the greatest temptations is the idea of unlimited power. It tempts to its exercise and its abuse, and it would be folly for us to say that we know that there is no danger that the State Convention will attempt to exercise despotic power. We may not think there is much danger, but who can say that he knows there is no danger? Not we, certainly. The fact is that Mr. Graham, as quoted by the Standard, really gives the same note of warning to which we give but a feeble response. There is always danger in the possession of dictatorial powers by any man or body of men, and always will be, as long as human nature remains what it is.

An Appeal.

SOME weeks since we received a note enclosing \$5, with the request to have it applied as an anonymous contribution from a lady to any fund getting up in aid of the Sisters of Mercy who were among the losers by the great fire in Charleston. The lady who sent the money had already contributed liberally to the general fund, and was not even a co-religionist of the "Sisters," although a warm admirer of those most exemplary ladies, a number of whom shortly after passed through this place on their way to the general hospital in Western Virginia. As nurses to the sick, as the tender guardians of bereaved orphans, these ladies deserve well of the country and of all its people, without distinction of name or creed. Their works are indeed those of "mercy," and the amount of good they do is only limited by the means at their disposal.

Their house in Charleston was so much injured that they had to move out of it, with their little flock of orphan children, and all the outshouses on the lot were destroyed, rendering necessary an outlay of at least nine thousand dollars to restore things to their former state. This they have not got, and this they much need. We notice that an appeal has been made through the Charleston Courier, which we trust will meet with a proper response. We would take the liberty of making a similar appeal here, and will take pleasure in receiving and forwarding any sums that may be contributed for this purpose.

P. S.—We have already got enough to start the affair cleverly.

We publish to-day a speech made in the Indiana Democratic State Convention by Hon. John G. Davis. After reading it nobody will be surprised to learn that Mr. Davis has taken refuge in the Confederacy, preferring Dixie to Fort Lafayette or Fort Warren.

MAIL ROUTES.—There is great necessity for a mail on the Wilmington, Charlotte & Rutherford Rail Road, and as not No. 259 passed by Congress, and approved on the 30th of August, 1861, provides for a mail said route we see no reason why a mail has not been placed upon said road.

State Convention.

THIS body has before it several Railroad bills; one being the Danville Convention, another being a railroad from the coal mines in Chatham to Raleigh. The Danville Connection has not been acted upon. The coal-field Road Bill has virtually been passed. It proposes to give eight hundred thousand dollars in bonds to aid in the building of the road.

Messrs. Trance, Strong and other gentlemen opposed the bill, because they did not think that the Convention was the proper body to build railroads and manufacture iron.

The question of creating the office of Lieut. Governor was up this week, but we do not know what disposition was made of it, if any.

On last Saturday, Mr. Ruffin introduced the following resolution, which was adopted, under the suspension of the rules:

"Resolved, That in aid of the revenue, a reasonable tax ought to be laid on the distillation of spirituous liquors, or on the grain used for distillation, and that the committee on Finance be and they are, to report on the subject of such tax, and report on or before the 1st of March."

PLEASURE CARRIAGES.—An assessor wishes to know whether harnesses should be taxed as pleasure carriages.

EDMOND WILMINGTON JOURNAL.—As my connection with the Defences of the Cape Fear District is a subject of some interest to the public, I wish to say a few words to the public of our State in reference to a portion of my assistants which I was in temporary command of the Cape Fear District and as Chief Engineer of the defenses.

To Capt. J. C. Winder of the Corps of State Artillery, (now Assistant Adjutant General,) I am greatly indebted for his untiring industry, energy and ability, as "constructing Engineer of the Cape Fear District," and for his services as Engineer of Fort Fisher and the osmear battery at Confederate Point, until his retirement from his service.

I regard the services of Capt. Winder as among the most meritorious that have been rendered the government on this coast, and they were, perhaps, by the authorities of the State at the time the last happened, the most efficient. I would not detract from Capt. MEADE and others who succeeded Capt. Winder, and whose official services will be fully recognized elsewhere. I desire the public expression of my gratitude to the Government for the services of Capt. Winder, and I trust the government will yet give him a position to test the truth of what I have here spoken.

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The Defeat in Kentucky—Latest from Gen. Crittenden's Forces!

The Knoxville Register, of Tuesday last, has the following:

We have conversed with a gentleman who left Gen. Crittenden's forces last Friday morning, who gives the following details of the battle and fall of the back of our forces. His statements may be relied on, as he had every opportunity of knowing the facts.

The attack made upon the Federals at Fishing Creek was determined upon in a council of war, at which all the regimental commanders were present, and was approved by all.

At one time during the fight, we had every reason to believe that the day was ours, and our subsequent defeat may be attributed to the mistaking a regiment of the enemy for the 15th Mississippi, and a consequent order from Gen. Zollicoffer to cease firing.

Gen. Zollicoffer riding forward towards the enemy, was shot and fell mortally wounded, throwing the regiments immediately around him into some confusion, which, as is always the case with imperfectly drilled troops, was difficult to suppress. The gallant Zollicoffer, in the very hour of death, did not forget his duty to his command, and he was heard to utter as he fell from his horse, "I was mistaken, they are enemy, charge them!" Had this command been heard by his men and they had charged, we probably would have had a victory instead of a defeat to chronicle. Our men continued from this time to fall back. The enemy were in superior force pressing their advantage until we were compelled to rally, were then driven back to the camp, keeping in the woods as much as possible to prevent the artillery from damaging us.

The fight raged nearly three hours without any cessation, a continual volley having been kept up by both armies.

Gen. Crittenden and staff were during the greater part of the fight immediately in the rear of the attacking force and in front of his reserve, and departed himself as a brave and gallant soldier. He was taken prisoner by the Federals, and was sent to the hospital with the rest of the staff. The Federals, however, were not taken prisoner, and were sent to the hospital with the rest of the staff.

Our loss in the battle is about 1000 killed, and 300 wounded and taken prisoners. Dis. Chitt, Morton and Dalany volunteered to remain in the hospital with the wounded.

The enemy appearing in greater force in front of our works on the afternoon, a council of war was again assembled, and it was determined to abandon a position it was madness to attempt to defend.

The Federals having all crossed during the night, we took up our line of march for Monticello, where the army encamped on Tuesday morning, when orders were issued to measure again the road, and the march continued on in the direction of Carthage on the Cumberland river.

It is but just to say that all the different field and staff officers conducted themselves with great bravery, and cheerfully suffered all the privations their commands were called upon to endure. To mention either individual names or particular regiments who are entitled to praise, we regret to say, is not within the scope of this article.

The greatest loss fell upon the 15th Mississippi and the left wing of Col. Battle's 20th Tennessee regiment, they being in a more exposed position than some of the other regiments.

The loss of property is great, but does not reach the exaggerated reports first brought in, and in a few weeks the army will again be ready for the field.

Rev. C. K. Marshall, of Natchez, Miss., who is here looking after the comfort of the wounded of the 15th Mississippi regiment in the late fight, informs us that on the reception of the news of Crittenden's defeat, a bill at once passed both houses of the Mississippi Legislature calling out twenty thousand volunteers for the defense of the State.

We are assured, abundantly, that the State will be more than able to meet the emergency. We fully concur with the Reverend gentleman in saying, that Hon. Mr. Ely told the truth when he went home and said to his people that "the Southerners are terribly in earnest in this war."

WAR MOVEMENTS.

Gen. Crittenden, it is said, is now at Livingston, with the main body of his forces, but probably expects to move to the Cumberland river, convenient for obtaining supplies. The enemy is reported to have crossed the river in large force, and a portion of them had advanced to Monticello on Tuesday last, and taken possession of that place, the wounded of General Crittenden's force, left in the hospital there falling into their hands.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BURNIDE.—Ambrose Everett Burnside, who commands the formidable expedition now fitting out at Annapolis, was born at Liberty, Maryland, January 23, 1824. At the age of eighteen he went to West Point, and was graduated fifteenth in a class of forty-seven students in 1847. He was brevetted 2d Lieutenant in 2d Artillery, and was transferred the next year to the 3d Artillery. Joining his regiment in Mexico, he marched in Patterson's column to the City of Mexico, where he remained until peace was declared.

He was ordered to the North, he was stationed at Fort Adams, in Newport Harbor. In 1849 he was attached as a 1st Lieutenant to Captain (now rebel General) Bragg's battery, and was engaged for three or four years in frontier service in New Mexico.

In an engagement with the Apache Indians, in August, 1849, near Los Vegas, Lieut. Burnside commanded a company of twenty-seven men who killed eighteen Indians, took two prisoners, and captured two horses.

For this action he was recommended to the Secretary of War and to President Fillmore for promotion. He afterwards served as Quartermaster to the commission which surveyed the boundary line between the United States and Mexico. In 1851 he crossed the Isthmus from the Gila river, through the Indian Territory, traveling two hundred miles in seventeen days, with an escort of but three men, bringing dispatches from Col. Graham to the President.

Lieut. Burnside was next stationed at Fort Adams, and while there he resigned his commission for the purpose of devoting his attention to the manufacture of a breech-loading rifle of his own invention, and to his residence at Bristol, Rhode Island.

His new rifle was so successful, that he went to Chicago and entered into the office of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, while George B. (now General) McClellan, was General Superintendent, and afterwards Vice-President of the company. After holding the position of cashier two years, Burnside was elected treasurer of the company, and removed to New York. While acting in this capacity, soon after the outbreak of the rebellion, he received a telegraphic dispatch from Gov. Sprague, calling him to the 1st Rhode Island Regiment of 1000 men was raised, and asking him to take the command. In half an hour he left his office, and was on his way to Providence.

The regiment was one of the first and one of the best which went to Washington, and was among the most prominent of those which took part in the engagement at Stone Bridge. Gen. Burnside acting as Brigadier General during that battle. His conduct on that occasion commended him to the attention of the authorities at Washington, and on the 6th of August he was appointed Brigadier General of volunteers.

Gen. McClellan, who knows his worth and mental capacity, has selected him to command one of the most important expeditions projected since the commencement of the war.—Northern papers.

OFFICIAL Announcement of the Victory.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22, 1862.

The following was received at headquarters to-night: LOUISVILLE, Jan. 22, 1862.

To Major General McClellan, Commanding United States Army.

The report of the enemy was complete. After succeeding in getting a piece of artillery across the river, and upwards of fifty wagons, they were abandoned with all the ammunition in the depot in Mill Spring. They then threw away their arms and dispersed through the mountain byways in the direction of Monticello, but are so completely demoralized that I do not believe they will make a stand short of Tennessee.

The property captured on this side of the river is of great value, amounting to eight six pounders and two Parrott guns, with caissons filled with ammunition; about 100 four horse wagons, and upwards of 1200 horses and mules, several boxes of arms which had never been opened, and from 500 to 1000 muskets, mostly with flint locks, but in good order, subsistence stores enough to feed the entire command for three days; also, a large amount of hospital stores.

As soon as I receive the report of the brigade commanders I will furnish a detailed report of the battle.

Our loss was thirty-nine killed and one hundred and twenty-seven wounded. Among the wounded were Col. McCook, of the Ninth Ohio, commanding a brigade, and his aid, Lieut. Burt, of the Eighth United States Infantry.

The loss of the rebels was Zollicoffer and 114 others killed and buried; 116 wounded; and 45 prisoners taken, five of whom are surgeons, and Lieutenant Colonel Carter, of the Seventeenth Tennessee regiment.

GENERAL THOMAS.

D. C. BUELL, Brigadier-General Commanding.

From the Lynchburg Vigilant, 27th ult.

The Lynchburg Register comes to us in mourning for the death of this brave and excellent man, whose loss to Tennessee is considered almost irreparable. Indeed, all of our contemporaries of the press seem to unite in their testimony to his merits, and their regret at his untimely end. There has not been such a general expression of grief at the fall of a brave and noble man, as in the case of the writer of this article stood to the deceased, enables him to communicate facts concerning the General that are not known to the public, but which may serve to gratify those who feel any interest in his history.

When a great man falls, or one who has held a conspicuous position before his countryman, a very natural desire prevails to know all about him. Gen. Zollicoffer was descended from a noble family, in that home of the brave and free—Switzerland. His grandfather, George Zollicoffer, came, we believe, from St. Gall's, and settled in North Carolina, about the commencement of our Revolutionary troubles, and served as an officer in the American army during that struggle.</